



English II Exam 'Época Normal'

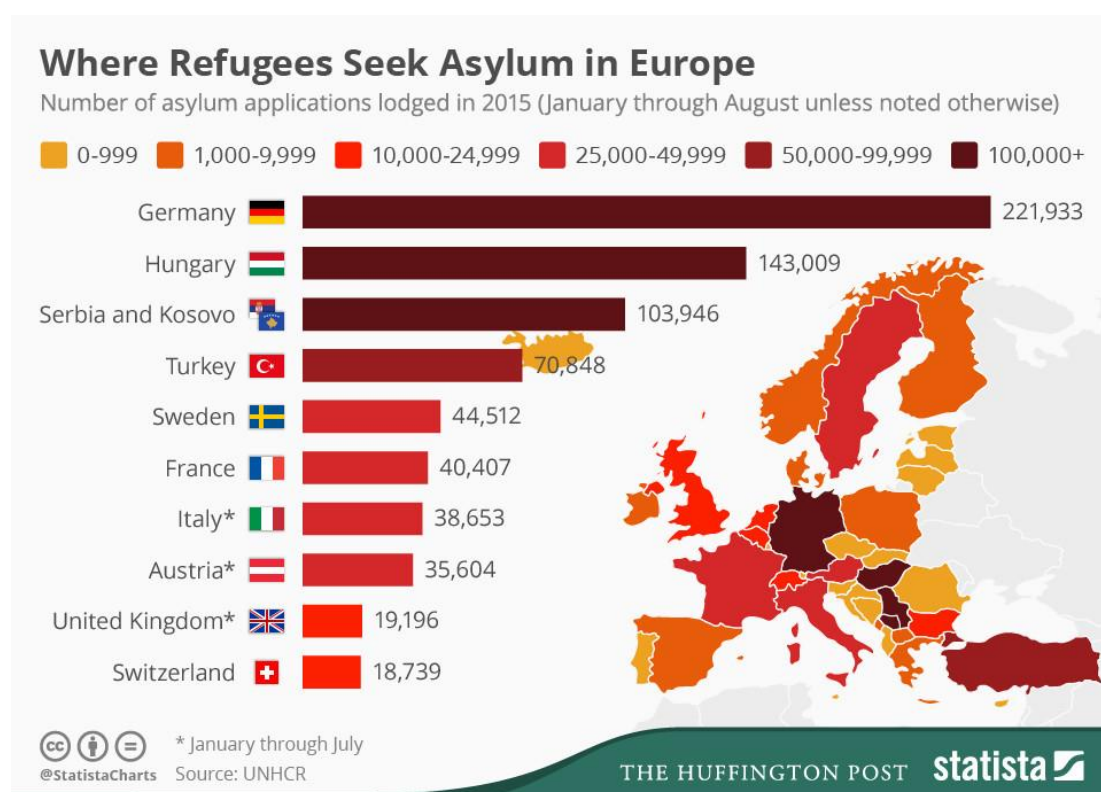
21 June 2016

12:00 – 14:00

A. Writing (13.5 points)

Consider figure 1 and write a text (300-400 words) in answer to the prompt.

Figure 1



Source: <http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk>

Using your knowledge of the refugee crisis in Europe, explain the information presented in Figure 1.

Your text will be marked on relevance and breadth of content, discourse management and genre, appropriacy and range of vocabulary and structures, and grammatical accuracy.

B. Reading (4.55 points)

Read the text **Fear of robots is founded in the messy reality of labour** on page 2 and answer the questions that follow on pages 3 and 4.

1. Dystopian visions of a future in which machines sweep millions of people out of work are as old as technological change itself. What is missing from today's debate about the march of the robots is an appreciation of the crucial role of labour bargaining power. When labour bargaining is weak, the Luddite fear of mechanisation is worth taking more seriously. The latest bout of anxiety is driven by the potential of machines to replace not just human brawn but human brains as well, opening up whole new areas of work to potential computerisation. Research by Oxford academics Carl Frey and Michael Osborne has found that almost half of current US employment is now vulnerable to this process. Bank of England analysis puts up to 15m UK jobs at risk. Those numbers are of course uncertain but they are also big.

10. The best argument for being relaxed about this process is the long sweep of economic history itself. In the past 150 years the UK has lost 1.5m farming jobs while agricultural output has grown by about 400 per cent. The result has been rising prosperity rather than mass unemployment. The story of technological change is usually short-term pain for long-term gain — at least for the economy overall.

15. But looking at the big picture risks missing important details. In the long run technological advancement has raised living standards; but the short run can last longer than might be expected. While the industrial revolution marked the point at which living standards in western Europe took off, the process was not smooth. Economic historians call the four decades before the 1840s Engels' Pause: a period of stagnant living standards and higher unemployment in the face of rapid technological change. This was the background to the *Communist Manifesto*.

20. To understand how the labour market reacts to labour-saving technology, economists tend to look at two related effects: the displacement effect and the compensation effect. The interaction of these processes determines how long a painful short run will last. Labour-saving technology, by definition, requires less labour to produce a given level of output. Rising productivity will displace some people from their jobs. At least, that is the perennial Luddite worry — but it ignores the compensation effect. Those still in work after a new technology has been introduced are more productive. Higher productivity, the theory goes, will eventually lead to higher wages, and higher wages should in turn mean higher spending. That fuels the growth of other sectors of the economy, creating new jobs.

25. The theory is neat but reality is messy. Labour market interactions are rarely the bloodless interplay of supply and demand lines on a graph. They are instead conditioned by the social and political context, the institutions and arrangements that govern the labour market. Higher productivity does not mean instantly higher wages. In short, power matters and if the economy really is on the verge of sweeping technological change, it will matter a great deal.

30. If labour's bargaining position is weak, as it is currently, then the danger is that the higher productivity from new technologies will not sufficiently be captured in swift wage growth. Instead, it could flow to the owners of the technology. In theoretical terms the displacement effect would play out but the compensation effect would be delayed. That would mean higher unemployment coupled with rising inequality and stagnating living standards for many, the kind of conditions that prompted Marx and Engels to put pen to paper in the late 1840s.

35. Avoiding that unhappy outcome means recognising now that wage growth plays a crucial role in helping an economy through technological transitions and that labour bargaining power is a big part of it. That means taking a hard look at existing labour market institutions and arrangements and asking whether they are able to cope with this process before it begins. If the robots really are coming for our jobs and labour remains weak then the short run pain might last a very long time indeed.

Duncan Weldon

The Financial Times, 17 April 2016

Name: Number:

B. Reading Comprehension (Cont.) (0.35 each)Choose **one** answer to each question and write the letter clearly in the box.

1. The main purpose of the article is
a. to report a change in the labour market.
b. to discuss a problem in the British labour market.
c. to argue a point of view.
d. to explain the effects of artificial intelligence (AI) on the labour market.
2. What is the writer's opinion about the effects of artificial intelligence on the labour market?
a. He is cautious about whether it will increase productivity.
b. He is neutral with regard to the impact of AI on the labour market.
c. He is optimistic that it will cause growth in the short run.
d. He is worried that the wealth generated might not go to workers.
3. Why does the writer mention Engel's Pause (line 20)?
a. Because technological change caused people to lose their jobs so living standards were stagnant and unemployment grew.
b. Because it exemplifies prolonged short-run effects of rapid technological change.
c. Because the economic situation led to political change.
d. Because of the similarities to today's economic situation.
4. What does the example about farming in the UK show?
a. That technological change causes millions of jobs to be lost in the long run.
b. All of the other answers are correct.
c. That Britain immediately benefited from the advances in technology in farming.
d. That technological change is a good thing for an economy in the long run.
5. According to economic theory, why is the Luddite fear of machines causing unemployment unfounded?
a. Because new jobs are created in other sectors due to increased demand from workers in sectors with new technology, whose wages have increased.
b. Because the higher wages in sectors with new technology cause higher productivity, which in turn causes other sectors to grow, thus creating new jobs.
c. Because the jobs lost due to technology will be replaced by jobs in other sectors without technology.
d. None of the other answers is correct.
6. Why is labour bargaining power important in today's context of technological change?
a. None of the other answers is correct.
b. Strong labour bargaining power will prevent millions of jobs from being lost to robots.
c. Strong labour bargaining power can ensure wage growth, which fuels growth in other sectors.
d. Strong labour bargaining increases the time period needed for the economy to adjust to higher productivity, thus increasing wages.
7. Which sentence is false?
a. AI may cause rising inequality, stagnating living standards for many and higher unemployment.
b. Research has shown that in the US there may be 15 million jobs at risk of being replaced by robots or AI.
c. Technological change will always cause some workers to lose their jobs.
d. If higher productivity does not lead to wage growth for the workers, the short run effects on the labour market will last longer.

8. Which statement best summarises the article?
- a. The current technological changes in AI are likely to cause a prolonged period of difficulty for displaced workers unless labour market institutions and arrangements take pre-emptive measures.
 - b. The current situation of the labour market is unable to cope with the rapid advances in technology of AI, which will cause massive job displacement while creating few jobs in other sectors.
 - c. The benefits of AI on the economy overall will take a long time to be felt due to weak labour bargaining power.
 - d. Real life examples are much more complex than economic theory about job displacement and compensation in the wake of technological change would suggest.



Reference, Substitution and Ellipsis

What do the following expressions, which are highlighted in the text, refer to? I.e. what is their specific meaning in this particular text? (0.35 points each)

- 9. those numbers (line 9)
- 10. the process (line 19)
- 11. This (line 21)
- 12. That (line 31)
- 13. They (line 34)

C. Vocabulary (1.95 points)

The following sentences were taken from English language newspapers. Complete each space with a suitable word or expression. The first letter(s) and a paraphrase of the meaning are given. You will need to put verbs in the right tense. You might need to add a preposition. (0.39 points each)

- 1. Kodak, the global company, completely dominated its industry – analogue photography – and was eventually destroyed by a **d..... t.....**: digital imagery. (new way of doing things that overturn the traditional business methods and practices)
- 2. **M..... w.....** and refugees can find themselves in situations of effective forced labour even before they turn up or work. (People working outside their home country)
- 3. Germany has hit back at explosive remarks by Turkey's prime minister, who told his compatriots that they should learn Turkish before German and resist **a.....** into German society. (the process whereby a minority group gradually adapts to the customs and attitudes of the prevailing culture)
- 4. A further 60,000 people **s..... a.....** in these four countries so far this year. (have requested the right to live in a foreign country because they were being persecuted or were in danger in their own)
- 5. France's interior minister says his government will offer **s.....** to some migrants in the Calais camp set up for demolition. (a place or dwelling giving protection from the weather)

Answers

A. Writing (13.5 points)

Content for the answer could include, but is not restricted to the following:

- The figure provides information on the numbers of asylum seekers in various European countries in the period between January and August of 2015. Many of these asylum seekers are refugees fleeing the war in Syria.
- Although there were almost 750,000 applications for asylum during the period, the figure does not represent the full total of refugees who entered Europe. To cope with the large numbers, the EU called an emergency meeting in 2015 to assign quotas to EU countries for the reallocation of refugees. It is to be noted that the quotas allocated to each country are lower than the number of refugees who applied for asylum.
- Germany received the highest number of applications. Germany remains a popular destination due to its strong economy. Furthermore, Angela Merkel has spoken out strongly in favour of receiving refugees and when the crisis began a few years ago, she openly welcomed them. One of the reasons for her willingness to accommodate the refugees is that they can mitigate some of the demographic problems facing Germany, namely an ageing population. Because many of the refugees are young, skilled and willing to work, they can quickly begin to contribute to the economy. As a result of Merkel's policy of accepting the refugees, Germany's population is no longer declining.
- The large numbers of asylum seekers for Hungary may be due to the law that refugees should apply for asylum in the first EU state member country that they enter. One of the entry points for Europe is through the Balkan states. Although Hungary may not be the first EU country that the refugees enter, it is considered a more appealing destination than Bulgaria or Romania, whose economies are considered less robust. In addition, at one point Austria closed its borders to refugees in 2015, blocking the route to Germany. In consequence, many may have applied for asylum in the country they were in, i.e. Hungary, Serbia or Kosovo.
- The high number of applications in Turkey is due to its proximity to the area in conflict. It is also a Muslim culture, so refugees may prefer to stay within a culture similar to their own, rather than go to a Christian country.
- Although many refugees enter through Greece and Italy, the numbers are so high that it is difficult for the authorities to process all the incoming migrants. As a result, refugees might not apply for asylum in these countries, resulting in a lower number of applications. Furthermore, the migrants entering these countries may be economic migrants rather than refugees. In other words, because they have emigrated merely to improve their standard of living instead of fleeing war, they may not be eligible for asylum status.

B. Reading comprehension (0.35 points each)

1. C
2. D
3. B
4. D
5. A
6. C
7. B
8. A
9. those numbers = half of current US jobs & 15m UK jobs, which will be lost (reference)
10. the process = the process by which technological advancement in the industrial revolution raised living standards (reference & ellipsis)
11. This = (a period of) stagnant living standards and higher unemployment in the face of rapid technological change
12. That = (higher productivity leading to higher wages, which leads to) higher spending (reference)
13. They = labour market interaction

C. Vocabulary (0.39 points each)

1. disruptive technology;
2. migrant workers;
3. assimilation;
4. have sought asylum;
5. shelter.